

A. Cover Sheet

Proposal # 2001 - G-202 (Office Use Only)

PSP Cover Sheet (Attach to the front of each proposal)

Proposal Title: Staten Island Acquisition
Applicant Name: The Nature Conservancy
Contact Name: William C. Unkel
Mailing Address: 1330 29th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (916) 449-2852
FAX: (916) 448-3469
E-mail: Cunkel@jus.net

Amount of funding requested: **\$35,110,873**

Some entities charge different costs dependent on the source of the funds. If it is different for state or federal funds list below.

State cost _____ Federal cost _____

Cost share partners? _____ Yes _____ X No

The Cosumnes River Project is a cooperative partnership that benefits from the expertise, management and financial contributions of all eight land-owning partners, as well as other funding sources including the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program, CVPLA's b(1) "other" and Conservation Programs, North American Wetland Conservation Act and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Flow Regimes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beyond the Riparian Corridor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonnative Invasive Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Watershed Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channel Dynamics/Sediment Transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Status Species Surveys and Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Water Tidal/Marsh Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishery Monitoring, Assessment and Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminants | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Screens |

What county or counties is the project located in? San Joaquin

What **CALFED** ecozone is the project located in? #1 - Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter-run chinook salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring-run chinook salmon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late-fall run chinook salmon.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall-run chinook salmon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Delta smelt	<input type="checkbox"/> Longfin smelt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Splittail	<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead trout
<input type="checkbox"/>	Green sturgeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Striped bass
<input type="checkbox"/>	White Sturgeon	<input type="checkbox"/> All chinook species
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterfowl and Shorebirds	<input type="checkbox"/> All anadromous salmonids
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migratory birds	<input type="checkbox"/> American shad
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other listed T/E species: Greater sandhill crane; Swainson's hawk; giant garter snake; western pond turtle	

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Pilot/Demo Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full-scale Implementation	

Is this a next-phase of an ongoing project? Yes ☐ No ☒

Have you received funding from CALFED before? Yes ☒ NO ☐

- * 1996-M06. Cosumnes River Preserve-Valensin Ranch.
- 1997-N14A. Cosumnes River Floodplain Acquisition and Management. FWS #10138-8471-0003
 - 1999-F04. McCormack-Williamson Acquisition, CALFED Directed Action. FWS #10138-8471-0003
 - 1998-B17. Cosumnes River Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration. DOI # 1425-98-FG-20-16880
 - 1998-F19. Cosumnes River Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration. FWS #11420-9-JO46
 - 1999-F03. McCormack-Williamson Wildlife-friendly Management Project. FWS # 10138-9-5015.
 - 1999-C01. Cosumnes River Feasibility Study. (No contract)

Have you received funding from CWIA before? Yes ☒ No ☐


- Habitat Restoration Program (Section (b)(1) "other"). Howard Ranch Acquisition. 1448-11300-98-9
- * Habitat Restoration Program (Section (b)(1) "other"). Horizon Organic Dairy Cons. Easmt. 00-FG-20-0026
- Habitat Restoration Program (Section (b)(1) "other"). Valensin Ranch. 1448-0001-96648

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- The truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- The individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if the applicant is an entity or organization); and
- The person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section 2.4) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

Henry Little

Printed name of applicant



Signature of applicant

BExecutive Summary

Title of Project: Staten Island Acquisition
Amount Requested: \$35,110,873
Applicant Name: The Nature Conservancy
Address: 201 Mission Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (916) 449-2852
FAX: (916) 448-3469
E-mail of primary contact: Cunkel@ius.net
Participants and collaborators: Cosumnes River Preserve partners

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) requests \$35,110,873 to acquire the 9,200-acre Staten Island. The Nature Conservancy or a qualified successor non-profit conservation organization will hold title to the property, continue to farm most of the acreage in a manner consistent with achieving CALFED ecosystem objectives for the East Delta, and use net revenues to support ongoing operations of the Cosumnes River Preserve. Only willing sellers will be involved, and payment will be limited to no more than fair market value established by an appraisal. Initial management activities will include biological, notably waterfowl and crane, and physical surveys. Staten Island is located in northern San Joaquin County, between the North and South Forks of the Mokelumne River. The project lies within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Management Zone and the East Delta Ecological Management Unit (see maps 1 and 2). This is a full-scale implementation project.

This proposal outlines Phase II of a joint (Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy), three phase conservation initiative for Staten Island designed to ensure permanent protection and optimal management. Phase I, outlined in a separate proposal by the BLM, involves improving the irrigation infrastructure on Staten Island to improve management of seasonally flooded field. Phase III will see the development and implementation of restoration and monitoring plans to address uncertainties to inform future management.

Our conceptual understanding of the life history needs of greater sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl leads us to hypothesize that maintaining and improving the quantity and quality of managed wetland habitat on agricultural lands will lead to increased survival and improved condition of the overwintering birds.

Acquiring the Island will allow a contiguous corridor, containing a mosaic of habitats, reaching from Stone Lakes and the Valensin Ranch portion of the Cosumnes River Project to the north all the way to the Mokelumne Forks confluence - essentially the "East Delta Habitat Corridor" envisioned in the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP). The project supports ERPP objectives by protecting and enhancing habitat for at-risk species with the intention of increasing survival rate and improving reproductive success (Goal 1, At-Risk Species). The project will also help address uncertainties identified in Goal 4, Habitats, associated with restoration. The primary biological/ecological objectives of this proposal are:

- Protect critical agricultural wetlands, an important wintering area for greater sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl.
- Facilitate an opportunity to restore significant acreage of riparian, freshwater tidal emergent wetland, shallow water, and aquatic habitats needed by resident and anadromous fish.
- Facilitate protection of a contiguous habitat corridor along the lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers.
- Facilitate population expansion of species associated with functioning East Delta habitats, particularly sandhill cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds, and resident species such as giant garter *snake* and western pond turtle.

The current owners of Staten Island recently volunteered to join the Cosumnes River Preserve as a partner, providing tremendous advantages by retaining the wildlife values of the Island. However, the Island is owned as an investment of a retirement fund. The wildlife benefits achieved at the Island are due to the good will of the current ownership - something that could change significantly if the Island is sold. Currently, there is no guarantee of long-term or permanent protection of the Island's biological values; owners indicate their desire to sell over the next *two* years. The Staten Island acquisition is complex. TNC has had success with large and complex projects and we believe that we can give this project its best opportunity to succeed.

'C. Project Description

Statement of the Problem

Problem

Delta wetlands and the wildlife populations that depend on them have significantly declined as a result of the development of agricultural islands. The loss of wetlands has been a major factor in the decline of waterfowl and sandhill cranes that depend on the Delta for overwintering habitat. In many places, agricultural lands planted in annual grain and row crops have become surrogate habitat for wildlife (CALFED 1999). Waterfowl and cranes now use rice, corn, alfalfa, and other grains (Collins and Paullin 1988, Elphick and Oring 1998, Elphick 2000, Littlefield and Ivey 2000). These croplands are now being converted to much less compatible land uses, such as perennial crops and urban development. The conversion has been dramatic; in south Sacramento County alone the acreage of vineyards has increased five-fold in the past five years, from 5,000 acres to 25,000 acres (TNC in preparation). Neither urbanization nor permanent crop agriculture is compatible with maintenance of Delta ecosystem functions and values. The Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) vision for the Delta calls for increasing the area of Delta corn fields and pastures flooded in winter and spring to provide high-quality foraging habitat for wintering and migrating waterfowl, greater sandhill cranes, shorebirds, and associated wildlife (CALFED 1999a).

The objectives of this proposal are to:

- Protect critical agricultural wetlands, an important wintering area for greater sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl.
- Facilitate an opportunity to restore significant acreage of riparian, freshwater tidal emergent wetland, shallow water, and aquatic habitats needed by resident and anadromous fish.
- Facilitate protection of a contiguous habitat corridor along the lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers.
- Facilitate population expansion of species associated with functioning East Delta habitats, particularly sandhill cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds, and resident species such as giant garter snake and western pond turtle.

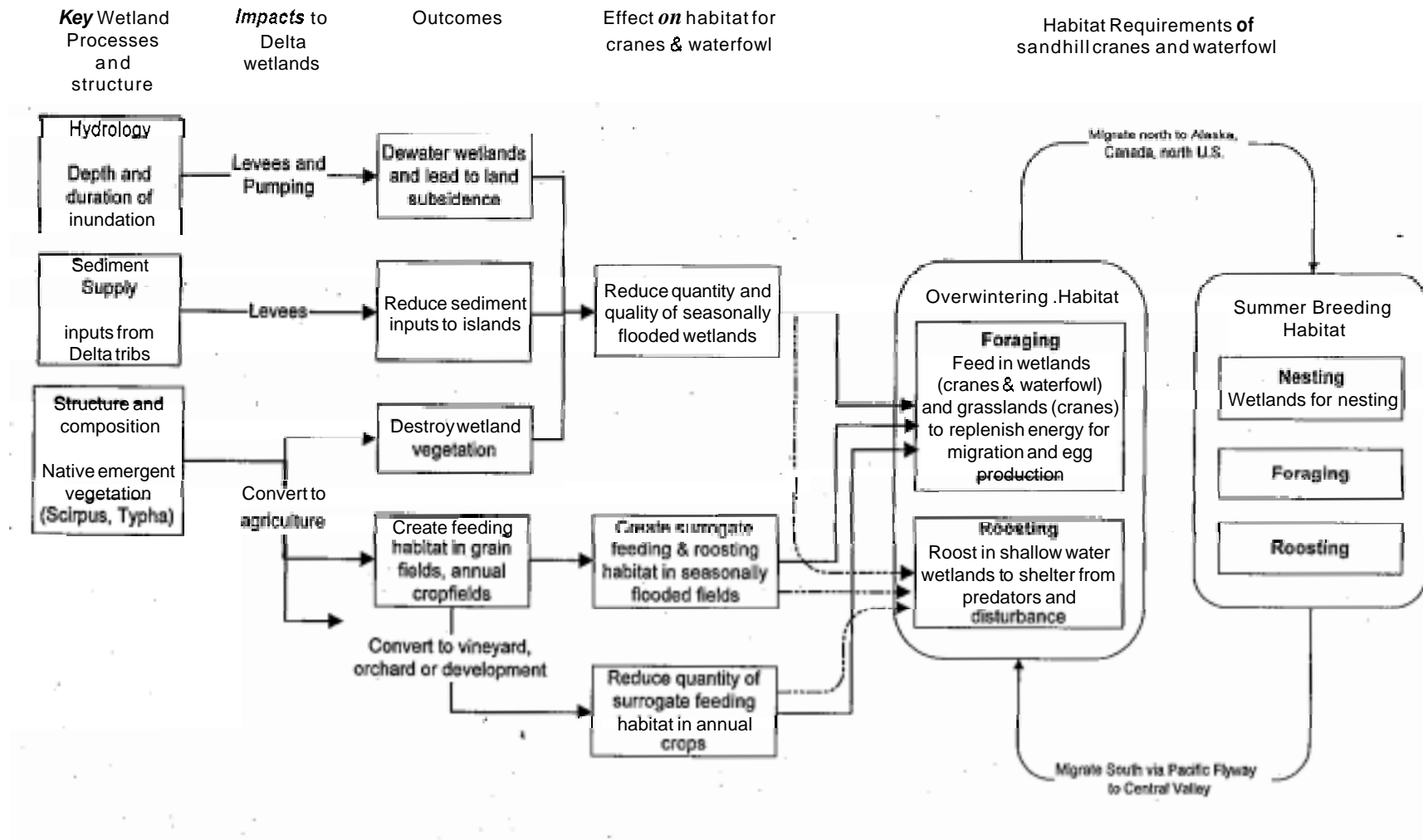
Conceptual Model

Understanding the habitat requirements of greater sandhill cranes and waterfowl and the key processes that support or impair suitable habitat is critical for designing an effective restoration project (Figure 1). The Delta's wetlands are a critical link in the life cycle of waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway and of sandhill cranes. Historically, the wetlands and flooded fields provided winter foraging and roosting habitat for these migratory birds. Development of Delta islands has disrupted the hydrological and sediment processes necessary to sustain the wetlands. Agricultural practices have also destroyed wetlands habitat by replacing native vegetation with a variety of crops. In some cases, waterfowl and cranes have adapted to take advantage of grain crop fields and irrigated pasture (Littlefield and Ivey 2000). Depending on the hydrologic regime used to flood these lands (Fredrickson and Reid 1990, Fredrickson 1991) and the crop type, birds can use agricultural lands as surrogate wetland habitat for feeding and/or roosting.

Hypotheses being tested

Our conceptual understanding of the life history needs of greater sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl leads us to hypothesize that maintaining and improving the quantity and quality of managed wetland habitat on agricultural lands will lead to increased survival and improved condition of the overwintering birds. Birds in better condition should have improved survival during the spring migration to the northern breeding grounds and better reproductive success (LaGrange and Dinsmore 1988). We expect this will result in an increase in populations. Factors beyond the Delta, such as availability of breeding habitat or mortality from predation or disease, may also limit population growth. Protection of wintering habitat nevertheless is essential for the long-term survival of these species on the Pacific Flyway (Weller 1988).

Figure 1 -Conceptual Model of Agricultural Development and Populations of Sandhill Cranes and Waterfowl



While there is general agreement that grainfields and annual cropfields can be managed to provide habitat for sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl (CALFED 1999), CALFED has recognized that more information is needed about how to best implement wildlife-friendly agricultural practices and determine their benefits (CALFED 2001 PSP, pg. 38). The proposed acquisition, management, and planning activities will (1) protect critical agricultural wetlands in such a manner that they will continue to be used by significant numbers of migratory birds, and (2) allow development and refinement of wildlife-friendly agricultural practices.

Phase I, which is outlined in a separate proposal by the Bureau of Land Management, involves improving the irrigation infrastructure on Staten Island to improve management of seasonally flooded field. Phase II, as outlined for this proposal, involves acquisition of promising sites and baseline monitoring. Phase III will see the development and implementation of restoration and monitoring plans to address uncertainties and inform future management. For example, how do different management scenarios (i.e. inundation schedule, water depth, crop) affect crane and waterfowl habitat use? Can subsidence be affected or reversed through prolonged inundation and restoration of wetlands?

Adaptive Management

Based on the available literature and the experiences and lessons learned at the Cosumnes River Preserve, we believe a full-scale implementation project is appropriate.

Littlefield and Ivey (2000) reviewed the conservation status and habitat needs for greater sandhill cranes wintering in the Delta. The Central Valley population winters in the Central Valley and breeds in north-eastern California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. The Delta is one of the two most important wintering sites, and Staten Island is a major use area in the Delta for both roosting and feeding. The presence of secure roost sites is key to the use of an area by sandhill cranes. Cranes typically roost overnight in open shallow water areas of wetlands or flooded agricultural fields. During the day, they forage in grain fields, and loaf or occasionally feed in grasslands, pasture, alfalfa, and lake edges.

Waterbird surveys of the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) were initiated by Ducks Unlimited in 1989 and have been conducted by Preserve staff and volunteers ever since (CRP survey data). The most abundant species which winter in this region are mallard and northern pintail; other common species include northern shoveler, American widgeon, and gadwall. Tundra swans are well-represented in the area. White-fronted geese are present in moderate numbers, but geese overall are less abundant here than in the Sacramento Valley (Sacramento Valley National Wildlife Refuges survey data). Waterfowl use agricultural fields for foraging principally, as well as some roosting. The distribution of birds can be patchy as flocks track changing food availability.

An unsurpassed opportunity exists on Staten Island to (1) support and improve wildlife-friendly agriculture that will foster recovery of at-risk native species such as greater sandhill crane (ERP Goal 1) and (2) investigate the effects of different agricultural practices on wildlife populations and water quality. Staten Island is recognized as an important site in California for wintering waterfowl and is unsurpassed in the Delta as wintering habitat for greater and lesser sandhill cranes (Littlefield and Ivey 2000). The Island provides extraordinarily valuable feeding and roosting habitat due to its immense size (9,200 acres), compatible agricultural practices (1,500-2,500 acres in seasonally-flooded corn), and minimal disturbance (access is limited). There are few if any places in the Delta where the opportunity to have positive impacts on wintering waterfowl and sustainable agriculture exists at such a large scale.

The owners of the 9,200 acre Staten Island (M&T Staten Ranch) have agreed to cooperatively manage the island, and contribute to meeting the waterfowl objectives for the Cosumnes River Preserve through

the management of their agricultural fields as seasonal wetlands (Collins and Paullin 1988). M&T Staten Ranch signed on as one of the land owning cooperators on the Preserve in 1999. The Preserve has a proven track record with wildlife-friendly agricultural practices, as seen on our 1,000-acre organic rice operation that provides foraging habitat for cranes and waterfowl. An underlying objective of our involvement with Staten Island is to make wildlife-friendly farming more economically viable, thereby reducing the threat of conversion to less suitable land uses.

Evaluating the effectiveness of our restoration actions, and adjusting our management practices accordingly, are integral parts of TNC's science-based conservation program. The application of wetland habitat management practices to agricultural crops will require adaptive approaches to develop not only an economically efficient operation but also highly desirable habitat for target species such as the threatened greater sandhill crane, northern pintail, and other waterfowl species. The Staten Island project would use the adaptive management approach to refine wetland habitat management and sustainable Delta agriculture practices. Results of monitoring programs implemented in Phase I and Phase III to look at habitat use by birds and water quality conditions will feed back into our management strategies, which can include adjustments in water inundation duration, water depths, use of seasonal and permanent wetlands on the Island, rotation of existing crops, and trying new crops such as rice.

Educational Objectives

The goal of the Cosumnes River Preserve's research, outreach, and public relations programs is to share the successes and lessons of this watershed-scale effort to protect and restore the habitats of the Cosumnes River floodplain and upper watersheds. While the purpose of this particular project is not primarily educational, it will facilitate the continued development and refinement of agricultural techniques and approaches with widespread applicability. This large-scale operation will have tremendous visibility with Delta farmers and local political leaders, thereby serving as educational outlets to demonstrate ways agricultural and ecosystem goals can be compatible.

The lessons learned will be disseminated through the Preserve partners, including U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Ducks Unlimited, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, State Lands Commission, and Sacramento County. The Central Valley Joint Habitat Venture is another venue for sharing results with other resource agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, California Waterfowl Association and U.S. FWS. Finally, information will be shared with the Cosumnes Science Consortium, a partnership between TNC and UC Davis, to encourage further research of the management and benefits of wildlife-friendly agriculture.

Proposed Scope of Work

Location

Staten Island is located in Northern San Joaquin County, between the North and South Forks of the Mokelumne River. The project lies within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Management Zone and the East Delta Ecological Management Unit. See Maps 1 and 2.

Approach

The acquisition project proposed herein does not stand alone. It is one part of a conservation strategy the goal of which is to protect and enhance the ecosystem benefits of the Island while encouraging the long-term viability of wildlife-friendly farming in the Delta. This strategy has been developed cooperatively over the past three years by the Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, the owners and operators of Staten Island, and other partners of the Cosumnes River Project, and consists of three phases:

Phase I: Enhancement of the extensive agricultural wetlands of the Island to optimize the wildlife habitat benefits of the existing agricultural operation particularly for migratory birds such as greater sandhill cranes, ducks, swans and geese. As described in greater detail in the proposal submitted by BLM, such enhancement will result from the construction of an internal cross levee system and installation of pumps;

Phase 11: Fee acquisition of the Island. Regardless of the ultimate disposition of the fee interests in the Island (i.e., what person or entity will own fee title to the property), the conservation charter under which this property will be purchased would legally ensure, in perpetuity, that the majority of the Island remain in annual crop agriculture, that ownership is not split among multiple interests, that water rights needed for agricultural and wildlife management purposes is never severed from the land, and other related objectives. While it is possible that the optimal ownership strategy would be to eventually vest the residual fee interests in a private operator/investor, the alternative favored at this time is to develop a non-profit foundation which would own and operate the Island's farming enterprises and habitat. The charter of such a foundation would require at least two objectives be pursued (1) that wildlife-friendly farming, as an end in itself and as a demonstration model for other Delta properties, be practiced, promoted, researched and developed, and (2) the net returns from all revenue-generating activities be used in support of the operations and management of the Cosumnes River Preserve.

Phase 111: Development and implementation of a habitat restoration program enabled by previously purchased fee title. Staten Island would be utilized as both the focus of habitat restoration efforts and as a laboratory for large scale research and development programs, to develop techniques of habitat restoration and management in the Delta. Specifically, locations would be selected and reserved for habitat restoration work, including sites that would permit levee set-backs, development of wetland and nesting habitat, riparian forest habitat and revegetation of the inside toes of the levees. (This work would enhance conditions for resident species such as giant garter snake and western pond turtle.)

The above described project is designed to be consistent with flood control and water management activities in the east Delta as well. For example, subsequent proposals to use Staten Island as an intermittent floodway could be accommodated; levee set-backs could be constructed to widen the Mokelumne floodplain. None of these or related proposals are precluded by the strategies described here; in fact, they may be facilitated by deed restriction and/or reservation in the charter of the newly organized non-profit ownership.

Implementation of Phase 1 of the project is expected to be complete by October, 2001. Implementation of Phase 2 acquisition can be completed over the next two to three years.

The three Phases of this project are driven by the tremendous wildlife values of the property, the ongoing threat of conversion to land uses and management less conducive to conservation objectives for the Delta, and perhaps most importantly, the existing but limited opportunity to achieve many of these objectives at this site. The value of Staten Island as wintering habitat for sandhill cranes is unsurpassed in the Delta (Littlefield and Ivey 2000). As presently managed, Staten Island attracts one, if not the largest, concentration of ducks and swans in the region. What is more, the Island has been operated successfully as an economically profitable agricultural enterprise over the past 30 years. More importantly, the Staten operation stands as an icon in the East Delta for successful achievement of the three more highly-sought conservation outcomes: **wildlife friendly farming with a proven track record, protection of known high value wildlife habitat, and retention of future options to improve habitat.** With the Island protected as farmland, other opportunities arise as well. Through the careful

structuring of easements, a portion of the Island could be **utilized** for subsidence reversal research and development. The entire Island would be plumbed for flood water retention through the construction of weirs and pumps. Flood level attenuation goals could be achieved and be consistent with the agricultural uses of and wildlife objectives for the property if the weirs and pumps were developed appropriately. The crops grown on the Island might be integrated into the organic dairy operation(s) soon to be associated with the Cosumnes River Preserve. That is, silage and grain crops could be produced organically and serve as a source for the organic dairy(s) and composted manure may be used for fertilizer.

The owners of the Island have realized financial profits as well **as** great wildlife benefits under the direction of the present management. And, **as** demonstrated by their willingness to sign the Cosumnes River Preserve Cooperative Agreement and become a partner in the Preserve, the existing owners of the Island are interested in working with the Preserve partners to implement our long term vision for the Island providing they receive what they consider a fair price for the property. Moreover, despite the fact that M&T Staten Ranch has received inquiries from a number of commercial interests, they are more inclined to work towards an outcome that would secure the conservation benefits of the land. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity may be short-lived: the current managers (Jim and Sally Shanks) expect to retire in two to three years, and that is the time period in which M&T Staten Ranch intends to **try** to develop a permanent conservation solution. If this solution fails to materialize, then the likely outcome will be the sale of the Island to another entity without the conservation inclinations of the present owners.

Monitoring and Assessment Plans

The Cosumnes River Preserve has a waterfowl monitoring program for its managed wetlands, which will be expanded **to** incorporate Staten Island to obtain baseline conditions in the first winter following acquisition. We will monitor the number and diversity of bird species utilizing seasonally flooded agricultural lands. Surveys will be conducted twice monthly during the flooding season when birds are expected to be using the fields (September-March). Counts will be made of each management unit during the day (to document daytime foraging). A complete count of greater sandhill cranes and northern pintail will be attempted, and other species and subspecies will be counted (i.e. other ducks, other cranes, unknown cranes, shorebirds, etc.). Crop type and water depths of each surveyed field will be recorded. We will also compare Staten Island data with results from other areas of the Preserve that may be monitored, such as the rice fields and managed wetland ponds.

Future restoration of Staten Island, such as would result in from levee setbacks or creation of permanent wetlands (neither is included in this Phase II proposal), will require intensive monitoring, which will be developed in Phase III. This could include monitoring of waterfowl and crane use of different fields, evaluation of conditions in the fields (i.e. water depth, duration of inundation, crop, tilling practice, water quality), and/or assessment of plant survival growth in restored wetlands or riparian areas.

Data Handling and Storage

Data collected **as** a result of this project will be presented as reports, documents and photos. The Nature Conservancy intends to maintain the collected data in its offices and intends to provide documents upon request and **as** appropriate. Appraisals, surveys, and other necessary documents related to real estate transactions are confidential and will be used by The Nature Conservancy without CALFED's prior approval to negotiate acquisition **of** fee interests. See also Paragraph below titled "Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions."

Expected Products/Outcomes

Expected product and outcome of this project is the fee acquisition of Staten Island by The Nature Conservancy and the permanent conservation management of the property. Phases I and III will include products such as reports and presentations on conservation management. A preliminary management plan will be developed upon acquisition of the Island, funding for which will be acquired from another source.

Work Schedule

Tasks 1 and 2: Acquisition is expected to take place during year one (October 2000-September 2001).

Task 3: Stewardship and Monitoring will be completed during the following two years (October 2001-September 2003). Funding is requested for baseline monitoring and initial start-up stewardship. Initial results from crane and waterfowl monitoring are early milestones. Comprehensive monitoring is part of Phase III and funds will be sought at a later date.

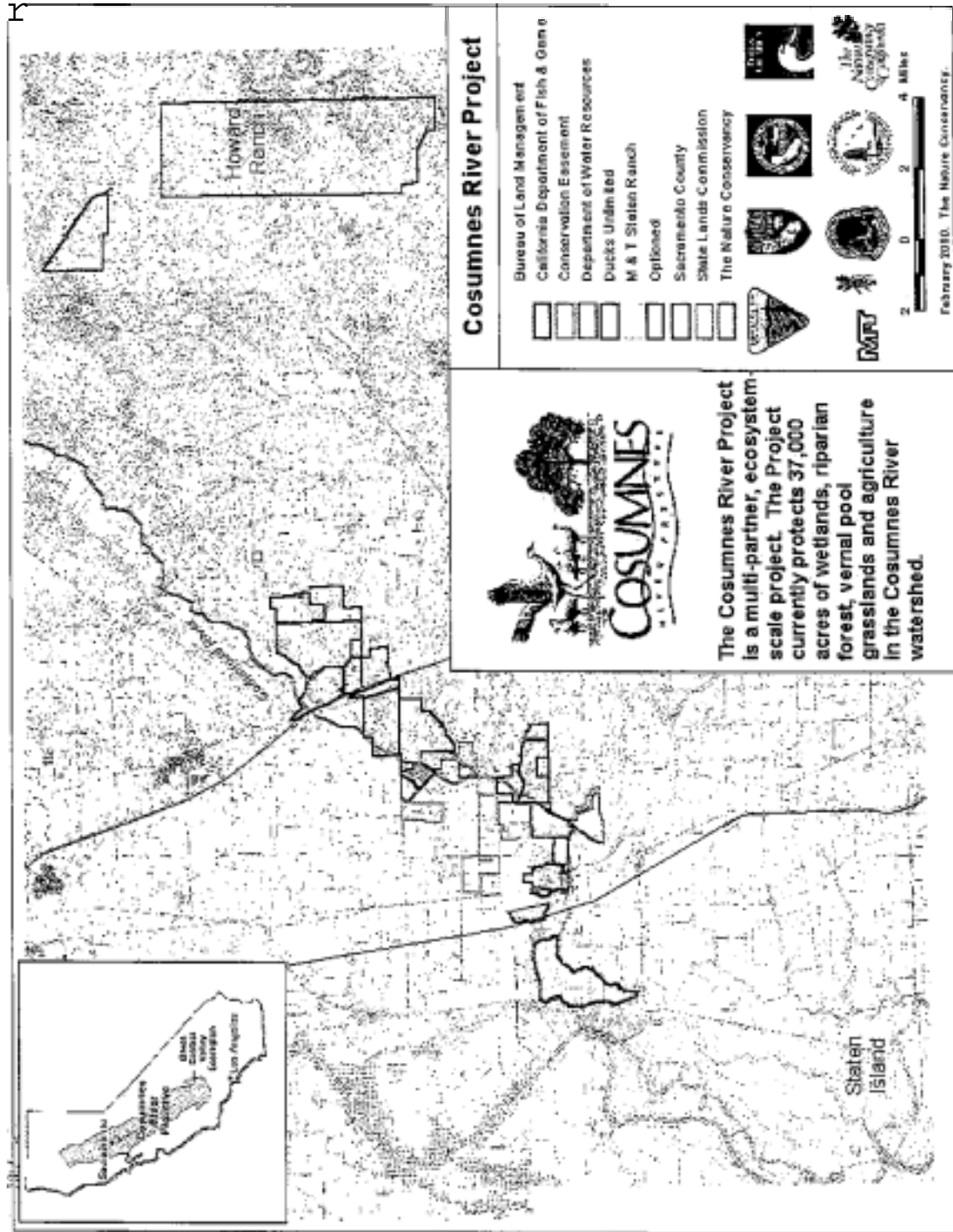
If this proposal is not fully funded, our ability to complete the project will depend on whether we can obtain funds from other sources. If there is considerable delay in obtaining other funds, we may lose the opportunity to purchase the Island. Completion of Phase II is not dependent upon completion of Phase I.

Feasibility

Although negotiations with landowners can be lengthy, it is anticipated that this project could be completed within the required three-year period. The proposed project represents what TNC considers to be the best alternative for protection Staten Island.

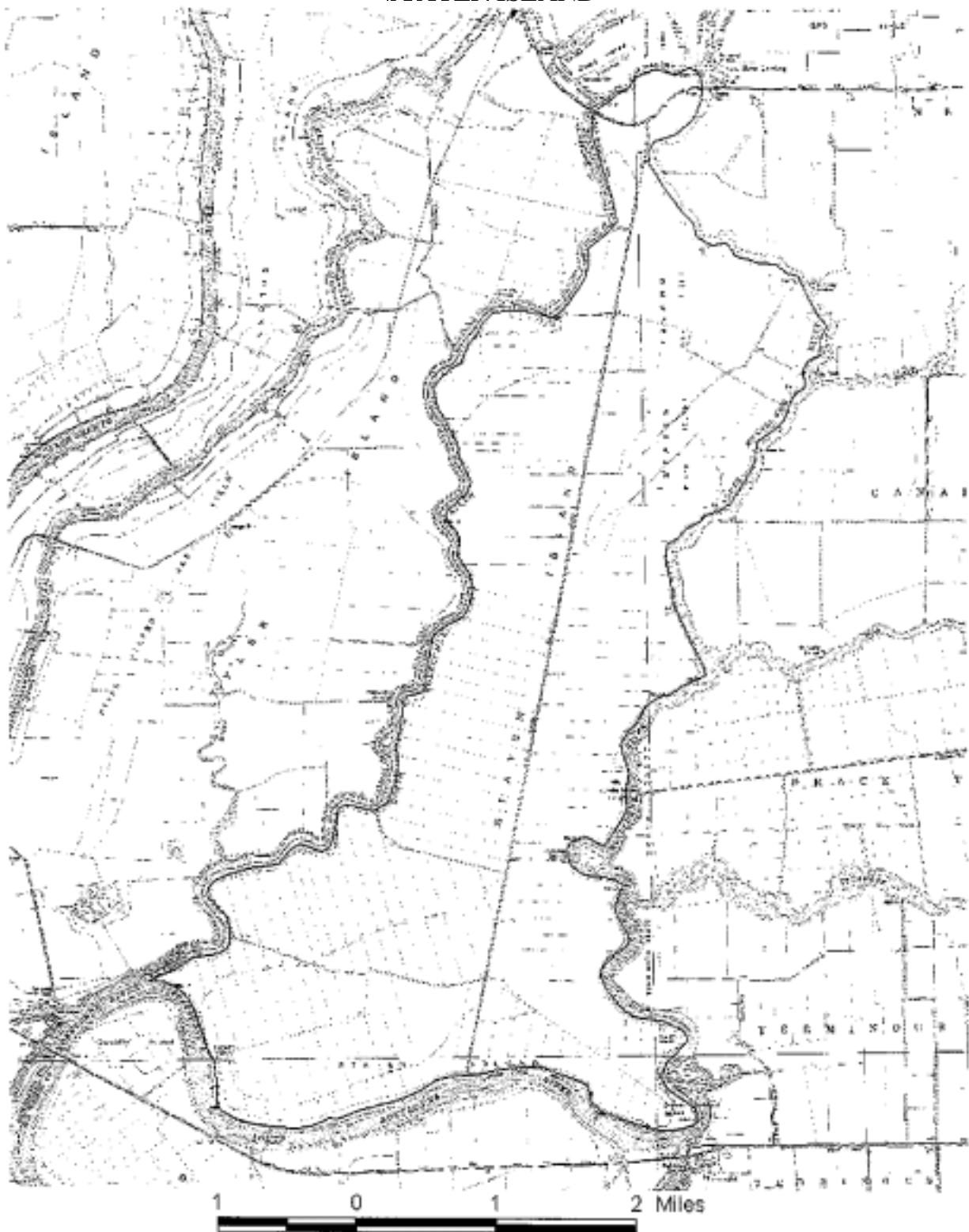
No permitting or environmental clearance is required to implement the proposed acquisition. The property to be acquired will be reviewed regarding the condition of the title (e.g., liens or encumbrances) and the condition of the property (e.g., Phase I inspection for hazardous materials).

As a non-governmental agency, TNC does not typically submit CEQA/NEPA documentation. TNC assumes the funding agency will take the lead on any required CEQA/NEPA documentation and that TNC will provide information as needed.



Map 1: Cosumnes River Project

STATEN ISLAND



Map 2

D. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA

ERP Goals and CVPIA Priorities

The proposed project supports the objectives of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan by protecting and enhancing habitat for at-risk species with the intention of increasing survival rate and improving reproductive success (Goal 1, At-Risk Species). This project will also help address uncertainties identified in Goal 4, Habitats, associated with restoration. The ecological/biological objectives of this proposal are to:

- Protect critical agricultural wetlands, an important wintering area for greater sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl.
- Facilitate an opportunity to restore significant acreage of riparian, freshwater tidal emergent wetland, shallow water, and aquatic habitats needed by resident and anadromous fish.
- Facilitate protection of a contiguous habitat corridor along the lower Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers.
- Facilitate population expansion of species associated with functioning East Delta habitats, particularly sandhill cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds, and resident species such as giant garter snake and western pond turtle.

Long-term benefits from the proposed land acquisition will be particularly significant because controlling this property will enable expansion of the river's floodway and natural process restoration on a much larger scale than has been possible to date. Moreover, the acquisition will interrupt the encroaching pattern of residential and vineyard development. Acquiring the Island will also allow protection of a contiguous habitat corridor, containing a mosaic of habitats, reaching from Stone Lakes and the Valensin Ranch portion of the Cosumnes River Project in the north all the way to the Mokelumne Forks confluence — essentially, the "East Delta Habitat Corridor" envisioned in the ERP. The preservation of agricultural land and continued agricultural use of the property will promote good will and cooperation with the local community.

The protection of wetlands proposed here, as well as future floodplain restoration that we envision, will reduce stressors such as levees, bridges, and bank protection, separation of rivers from their floodplains, riparian vegetation removal, loss of wetland habitat, and loss of agricultural lands.

This project will help achieve a number of strategic objectives regarding restoration or enhancement of CALFED priority species. Species addressed include greater sandhill cranes, waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds. (Targets for these species are listed in ERPP, Vol. 11, pp. 20-46.)

Relationship to Other Ecosystem Restoration Projects

The plan presented here proposes to expand land preserved within the Cosumnes River Preserve. These protected lands, located in the Cosumnes River's lower watershed and eastern Delta, total nearly 31,000 acres of riparian forest, seasonal wetland, tidal habitats, vernal pool grasslands, blue oak woodlands, and wildlife-friendly farming along the foothills and floodplains of the Cosumnes River and on McCormack-Williamson tract. The Preserve represents a significant cumulative investment in land, management, planning, and scientific investigation to date. The funding contributed represents a mix of federal, state, local, mitigation, and private sources. Management partners at the Preserve include U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento County, American Farmland Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Nature Conservancy.

This Phase II proposal will support the actions described in Phases I and III which have the potential to inform restoration and management decisions throughout the Delta. Also, Staten Island is directly

adjacent to the McCormack-Williamson tract, which CALFED is helping to protect and restore. McCormack-Williamson links directly to the lands protected in the lower floodplain. This project would also help link the Delta to the habitats protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (a CALFED-funded project) and acquisitions at the soon-to-be-established North Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

Requests for Next-Phase Funding

Not applicable.

Previous Recipients of CALFED or CVPIA funding

As a result of four previous rounds of proposals, CALFED has awarded the Conservancy and our partners a total of \$14,341,878 to acquire additional Preserve lands. These grants have resulted in acquisition (or potential/probable acquisition) of properties totaling almost 4,500 acres. Additionally, almost \$1,500,000 in CVPIA funds have been used on the acquisition of Valensin Ranch and Howard Ranch.

System-Wide Ecosystem Benefits

The acquisition of Stater Island complements the upstream conservation efforts of the Cosumnes River Project, particularly in regard to the physical linking of patches of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat. The farmlands benefit the area in a number of ways: first, by ensuring that disruptive activities and land uses will not occur in the vicinity of the existing and restored habitat lands, and second, by adapting the row and field crop agriculture conducted to provide important supplemental habitat and food for native species, particularly migratory birds. Most importantly, the acquisition of a large successful farming operation will provide the opportunity to build upon wildlife-compatible farming efforts demonstrated elsewhere in the Cosumnes River Project area.

E. Qualifications

The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit membership organization whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy and its 1 million members have safeguarded more than 11.6 million acres in the United States. The Conservancy has also worked with like-minded partner organizations to preserve more than 59 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Asia. The California Regional Office is the Conservancy's largest state program and a leader in program development. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Nature Conservancy of California has 110,000 members and has protected nearly one million acres in the state.

The Nature Conservancy uses a wide variety of tools to help forge solutions to conservation issues. We employ the following four methods most frequently: acquisition of land or conservation easements, land management and restoration, land-use planning and conflict resolution, and community education and outreach. Our strength and reputation are built on the policy and practice of applying the best conservation science available and of building partnerships to achieve mutual conservation goals. There are no known conflicts of interest for The Nature Conservancy in implementing this project.

Several of the Conservancy's landmark conservation projects have focused on riparian ecosystems. Conservation efforts aimed at these complex natural communities must include maintaining and restoring the natural processes that are essential to the long-term health of the hydrological system. These projects include the following:

Cosumnes River Project — Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties

Working with public agencies and private landowners, The Nature Conservancy has protected nearly 31,000 acres of riparian forest, seasonal wetland, tidal habitats, vernal pool grasslands, blue oak woodlands, and wildlife-friendly farming along the floodplains and foothills of the Cosumnes River and eastern Delta. The Preserve has created more than 1,000 acres seasonal wetlands, restored 850 acres of riparian forest habitat, and implemented innovative levee set-back projects to restore natural channel meander. The project provides many opportunities for local involvement, including public visitation, research, and cooperative management with neighboring farmers. The Nature Conservancy has begun working downstream, to include protection and restoration of key parcels near the confluence with the Mokelumne River that are critical to the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The Nature Conservancy is an active participant in CALFED's North Delta Improvement Group, a stakeholder group addressing flooding and habitat issues in the Mokelumne Comdor.

Sacramento River Project — Butte, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa Counties

An active participant in the SB 1086 process, The Nature Conservancy is collaborating with local landowners and stakeholders to develop the Sacramento River Conservation Area. To date, approximately 15,000 acres have been protected and approximately 2,340 acres restored, supported by funding from many partners and sources, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources, and others. Through the site-specific management planning process, the Conservancy is focusing on key sub-reaches of the river that are central to the implementation of a limited meander comdor, a high-priority objective for SB 1086 and CALFED.

Mill Creek, Deer Creek, Battle Creek — Butte, Tehama, Shasta Counties

These tributaries of the upper Sacramento River provide critical habitat for healthy populations of high-priority anadromous fish species, including steelhead trout and winter, spring, fall, and late fall run chinook salmon. Protection of riparian parcels through the purchase of fee and easement interests is essential to ensuring connectivity of habitat to the mainstem of the Sacramento River. Active restoration has also begun on some of the protected parcels, with funding from CALFED and CVPIA and with the cooperation of local watershed conservancies.

F. Cost

Budget

Total project costs are \$35,110,873.

Acquisition costs of \$35,000,000 are estimated capital costs for purchase of fee simple interests. Actual costs will be based on appraisals. Other costs incurred in acquisition of conservation easements are included in Service Contracts. The Conservancy may request that, if possible, capital funds be placed in escrow prior to a closing or, as an alternative, the Conservancy may close with its own funds and request reimbursement from CALFED for capital costs in addition to other acquisition and closing costs. TNC would request reimbursement for the non-capital acquisition costs regardless of closing status.

Direct salary and benefits of \$9,494 are calculated for Tasks described in the Scope of Work. Benefits are calculated at 37.5% of salary paid for hours worked in accordance with our Negotiated Indirect Costs Rate Agreement (NICRA) fringe benefit rate. The staff involved in this project include project management, field representatives, and ecologists.

Project Management costs and ongoing maintenance costs will be funded by income generated from the Island.

Service Contracts of \$80,000 for conservation acquisition includes the costs of: appraisals, phase I assessments, title insurance and other closing costs, legal and accounting services, and potential surveying. Also included in Service Contracts are initial stewardship costs such as: waterfowl and crane monitoring; baseline surveys which may include habitat, archeological and soil; and mapping. All services may be obtained from a group of vendors that the Conservancy uses on a regular basis and pays from invoice rather than through a written contract.

Travel, Supplies and Other costs of \$2,900 include travel costs, photographs, photocopies among other costs associated with the acquisition and stewardship activities.

Overhead **costs** of \$18,479 included in this proposal are 20% of total direct project costs, including subcontracts but excluding the purchase price of any land interests. The indirect portion includes costs associated with general office requirements staff, including legal and grants administration staff.

Reporting: TNC will report on a task level. It is understood that these figures are a best estimate at the time the quarterly fiscal report is provided and do not necessarily reflect actual expenses. For invoices, **TNC** will invoice at the task level.

Cost-Sharing

Not applicable.

Annual and Total Budget.

Year	Task	Direct Labor Hours	Subject to Overhead						Exempt from Overhead		Total Cost
			Salary	Benefits	Travel	Supplies & Expendable	Service Contracts	Misc & Other Direct costs	Overhead (20%)	Acquisition	
Year 1	Task 1 – Land Acquisition									\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
	Task 2 – Acquisition Costs	135	\$4,816	\$1,806	\$500	\$300	\$50,000	\$500	\$11,584		\$69,506
Total Cost Year 1			\$4,816	\$1,806	\$500	\$300	\$50,000	\$500	\$11,584	\$35,000,000	\$35,069,506
Year 2	Task 3 – Stewardship, Monitoring	70	\$1,829	\$686	\$200	\$200	\$25,000	\$500	\$5,683		\$34,098
Total Cost Year 2			\$1,829	\$686	\$200	\$200	\$25,000	\$500	\$5,683		\$34,098
Year 3	Task 3 – Stewardship, Monitoring	10	\$260	\$98	\$200	\$200	\$5,000	\$300	\$1,212		\$7,269
Total Cost Year 3			\$260	\$98	\$200	\$200	\$5,000	\$300	\$1,212		\$7,269
Total Project cost			\$6,905	\$2,589	\$900	\$700	\$80,000	\$1300	\$18,479	\$35,000,000	\$35,110,873

G. Local Involvement

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Administrative Officer, Planning Director, and Water Resources Director have received notice of this proposal (letter attached). Because of the potential benefit to Sacramento County of activities enabled by the proposed activities, we have also notified Sacramento County officials.

The CALFED North Delta Improvements Group and the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance (MCWA) will be important forums for assuring local and interagency involvement in the activities made possible by this grant. The proposed acquisition will not preclude any of the alternatives the North Delta Improvements Group is considering, and may facilitate potential future restoration actions such as setback levees. Members of these groups have been informed of this proposal, and will be consulted and engaged as we move toward implementation of the activities proposed. Together, the LMRTF North Delta Group and MCWA include all of the relevant Resource Conservation Districts, Reclamation Districts, and other major stakeholders. Through their regular meetings, we will assure close coordination of this program with their plans and objectives.

In addition, the Cosumnes River Preserve carries out a regular program of outreach to decision-makers and community groups in the greater Sacramento region. Activities in this program include periodic presentations to or participation with the Galt Chamber of Commerce, the North Delta Conservancy, the Delta Protection Commission, service clubs, historical societies, and other groups. These presentations serve to keep key constituencies informed of Preserve activities and to provide the vehicle for further involvement by those who seek it.

If this grant is approved, we will develop and implement an outreach plan specific to this program — one focused on the landowners and farm organizations who are engaged in ongoing discussions about conveyance improvements in the corridor and who will be the beneficiaries of such improvements.

Finally, the Preserve has a web page (www.cosumnes.org) with background information, maps, and descriptions of current programs.

H. Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions

Regarding Attachment **D**, Section 3 Performance Retention, the Conservancy requests that the 10% retention not be required for capital costs.

For Section 4, Expenditure of Funds, the Conservancy requests the following negotiated language used in existing CALFED agreements with the Conservancy (e.g. CALFED project 97-N03):

“Upon written approval of the contract manager, and as long as the total contract amount does not increase, the Conservancy may adjust (1) the budget between individual tasks by no more than 10% and (2) the budget between individual line items within a task by no more than 10%. A request for budget change shall be accompanied by justification showing that the overall scope of the project will not be compromised. In addition, variances, which exceed 10% of a project task’s approved budgeted amount, must have approval in advance, with written explanations of programmatic changes to cover such variance and to remain within the maximum contract amount.”

For Section 5, it is noted in the Budget section above that appraisals, phase I assessments, baseline monitoring reports, title reports and other acquisition services will be obtained from a group of vendors that the Conservancy uses on a regular basis and pays from invoice rather than **through** a written contract; Point Reyes Bird Observatory has been identified **as** the subcontractor for neotropical bird monitoring. The Conservancy will solicit competitive bids for fencing services obtained through subcontracts, or the Conservancy will provide sole source justification if the landowner contracts

directly with the Conservancy to supply the fencing service. For any provision of an alternate water source, PG&E will be used to provide electrical services, and bids would be solicited for the well.

For Section 9, the Conservancy requests the following negotiated language used in existing CALFED agreements with the Conservancy (e.g. CALFED project 97-NO3):

“Rights in Data. All data and information obtained under contract shall be publicly disclosed only in accordance with California law and the federal Freedom of Information Act. In addition, all appraisals and other information regarding pending transactions shall be treated as confidential and proprietary until the transaction is closed. The Conservancy shall have the right to disclose, disseminate and use, in whole or part, any final form data and information received, collected and developed under this agreement, subject to inclusion of appropriate written acknowledgement of credit to CALFED and all cost sharing partners for their financial support. Use of draft data requires pre-approval by CALFED. The Conservancy shall not sell or grant rights to a third party who intends to sell such product as a profit-making venture.”

Section 24, may require revision depending upon the nature of the interest acquired by The Nature Conservancy.

Section 25 may require revision depending upon the nature of the interest acquired by The Nature Conservancy.

I. Literature Cited

CALFED. 1999. Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan Volume II. June 1999.

CALFED. 2000. Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs 2001 Proposal Solicitation Package. March, 2000.

Collins, E. and D. G. Paullin. 1992. Wetland and waterfowl management recommendations for M&T Staten Ranch, Staten Island, Walnut Grove, California. Management plan prepared by Ducks Unlimited and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, North American Waterfowl Management Plan. 12pp.

Elphick, C. S. and L. W. Oring. Winter management of Californian rice fields for waterbirds. *J. of Applied Ecology*. 35: 95-108.

Elphick, C. S. 2000.. Functional equivalency between rice fields and seminatural wetlands habitats. *Conservation Biology*. 14(1) 181.-191.

Fredrickson, L. H. 1991. Strategies for water level manipulations in moist-soil systems. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Leaflet 13.4.6, Waterfowl Management Handbook. 8 pp.

Fredrickson, L. H. and F. A. Reid. 1990. Impacts of hydrologic alteration on management of freshwater wetlands. Pp. 71-90. In: J. M. Sweeney (Ed.) Management of dynamic ecosystems. North Central Section, The Wildlife Society, West Lafayette, Indiana.

LaGrange, T. G. and J. J. Dinsmore. 1988. Nutrient reserve dynamics of female mallards during spring migration through Cenral Iowa. Pp. 287-297. In: Weller, M.W. (Ed.) Waterfowl in winter. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 624 pp.

Littlefield, C. D. and G. L. Ivey. 2000. Conservation assessment for greater sandhill cranes wintering on the Cosumnes River floodplain and Delta regions of California. February 2000. Report prepared for The Nature Conservancy, Cosumnes River Preserve. '27 pp

Weller, M.W. Ed. 1988. Waterfowl in winter. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 624 pp.

Environmental Compliance Checklist

All applicants must fill out this Environmental Compliance Checklist. Applications must contain answers to the following questions to be responsive and to be considered for funding. **Failure to answer these questions and include them with the application will result in the application being considered nonresponsive and not considered for funding.**

1. Do any of the actions included in the proposal require compliance with either the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), or both?

YES

~~NO~~

- 2.** If you answered yes to # **1**, identify the lead governmental agency for CEQNNepA compliance.

Lead Agency

3. If you answered no to # 1, explain why CEQA/NEPA compliance is not required for the actions in the proposal.

Land acquisition is not triggered by a discretionary decision by a public agency.

4. If CEQNEPA compliance is required, describe how the project **will** comply with either **or** both of these laws. Describe where the project **is** in the compliance process and the **expected** date of completion.

5. Will the applicant require access across public or private property that the applicant does not own to accomplish the activities in the proposal?

YES

~~NO~~ ☒

If yes, the applicant must attach written permission for access from the relevant property owner(s). Failure to include written permission for access may result in disqualification of the proposal during the review process. **Research** and monitoring **field projects** for which specific field locations have not been identified will be required to provide access needs and permission for access with **30** days of notification of approval.

6. Please indicate what permits **or** other approvals may be required for the activities contained **in** your proposal. Check all boxes that apply.

Conditional use permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Variance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Subdivision Map Act approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grading permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	
General plan amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific plan approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rezone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Williamson Act Contract cancellation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other _____		
(please specify)		
None required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>STATE</u>		
CESA Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/>	(CDFG)
Streambed alteration permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	(CDFG)
CWA § 401 certification	<input type="checkbox"/>	(RWQCB)
Coastal development permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Coastal Commission/BCDC)
Reclamation Board approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Notifiration	<input type="checkbox"/>	(DPC, BCDC)
Other _____		
(please specify)		
None required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>FEDERAL</u>		
ESA Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/>	(USFWS)
Rivers & Harbors Act permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ACOE)
CWA § 404 permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ACOE)
Other _____		
(please specify)		
None required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DPC = Delta Protection Commission
 CWA = Clean Water Act
 CESA = California Endangered Species Act
 USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 ACOE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ESA = Endangered Species Act
 CDFG = California Department of Fish and Game
 RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board
 BCDC = Bay Conservation and Development Comm.

Land Use Checklist

All applicants must **fill** out this Land Use Checklist for their proposal. Applications must contain answers to the following questions to be responsive and to be considered for funding **Failure to answer these questions and include them with the application will result in the application being considered nonresponsive and not considered for funding.**

1. Do the actions in the proposal involve physical changes to the land (i.e. grading, planting vegetation, **or** breeching levees) or **restrictions** in land use (i.e. conservation easement **or** placement of land in a wildlife refuge)?

X
YES

NO

2. If **NO** to # 1, explain what type of actions are involved in the proposal (i.e., research only, planning only).

3. If **YES** to # 1, what is the proposed land use change **or** restriction under the proposal?

wildlife-friendly farming

4. If **YES** to # 1, is the land currently under a Williamson Act contract?

X
YES

5. If **YES** to # 1, answer the following:

Current land use

Current zoning

Current general plan designation

Agriculture
Ag. 20
Agriculture

6. If **YES to #1**, is the land classified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland **on** the Department of Conservation Important Farmland Maps?

X
YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

7. If **YES to # 1**, how many acres **of** land will be subject to physical change **or** land use restrictions under the proposal?

9,200

8. If **YES to # 1**, is the property currently being commercially farmed **or** grazed?

X
YES

NO

9. If **YES to #8**, what are

the number of employees/acre 0.003

the total number of employees 30

10. Will the applicant acquire any interest in land under the proposal (fee ~~title~~ or a conservation easement)?

☒ **YES**

☐ **NO**

11. What entity/organization will hold the interest? TNC or new non-profit

12. If **YES** to # 10, answer the following:

Total number of acres to be acquired under proposal

Number of acres to be acquired in fee

Number of acres to be subject to conservation easement

9200
9200

13. For all proposals involving physical changes to the land or restriction in land use, describe what entity or organization will:

manage the property

provide operations and maintenance services

conduct monitoring

TNC
TNC
TNC, BLM, others

14. For land acquisitions (fee title or easements), will existing water rights also be acquired?

☒ **YES**

☐ **NO**

15. Does the applicant propose any modifications to the water right or change in the delivery of the water?

☐ **YES**

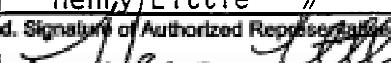
☒ **NO**

16. If **YES** to # 15, describe _____

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED 5/12/00	Applicant Identifier
		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier
		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier

5. APPLICANT INFORMATION															
Legal Name: The Nature Conservancy	Organizational Unit: California Regional Office														
Address (give city, county, State, and zip code): 201 Mission Street, 4th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105	Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code): Chris Unkel (916) 449-2852														
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 53-0242652	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District </div> <div> H. Independent School Dist. I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify) 501(c)(3) nonprofit </div> </div>														
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other (specify): _____	9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY														
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER. <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> TITLE	11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT Staten Island Acquisition														
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Sari Joaquin County															
13. PROPOSED PROJECT 10/1/00 9/30/03 Start Date Ending Date	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: 11th District														
a. Applicant The Nature Conservancy	b. Project Staten Island Acquisition														
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?														
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>a. Federal</td><td>\$ 35,110,874</td></tr> <tr><td>b. Applicant</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr><td>c. State</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr><td>d. Local</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr><td>e. Other</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr><td>f. Program Income</td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr><td>g. TOTAL</td><td>\$ 35,110,874</td></tr> </table>	a. Federal	\$ 35,110,874	b. Applicant	\$	c. State	\$	d. Local	\$	e. Other	\$	f. Program Income	\$	g. TOTAL	\$ 35,110,874	a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE _____ b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW
a. Federal	\$ 35,110,874														
b. Applicant	\$														
c. State	\$														
d. Local	\$														
e. Other	\$														
f. Program Income	\$														
g. TOTAL	\$ 35,110,874														
17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No															
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.															
a. Type Name of Authorized Representative Henry Little	b. Title Director of Conservation														
c. Telephone Number (415) 777-0867	d. Signature of Authorized Representative 														
e. Date Signed 5/12/00															

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Standard Form 424 (Rev. 7-97)

Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

This is a standard form used by applicants as a required facesheet for preapplications and applications submitted for Federal assistance. It will be used by Federal agencies to obtain applicant certification that States which have established a review and comment procedure in response to Executive Order 12372 and have selected the program to be included in their Process, have been given an opportunity to review the applicant's submission.

- | Item: | Entry: | Item: | Entry: |
|--|--------|--|--------|
| 1. Self-explanatory. | | 12. List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities). | |
| 2. Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) and applicant's control number (if applicable). | | 13. Self-explanatory. | |
| 3. State use only (if applicable). | | 14. List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project. | |
| 4. If this application is to continue or revise an existing award, enter present Federal identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank. | | 15. Amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in-kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate <u>only</u> the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. If both basic and supplemental amounts are included, show breakdown on an attached sheet. For multiple program funding, use totals and show breakdown using same categories as item 15. | |
| 5. Legal name of applicant, name of primary organizational unit which will undertake the assistance activity, complete address of the applicant, and name and telephone number of the person to contact on matters related to this application. | | | |
| 6. Enter Employer Identification Number (EIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. | | 16. Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process. | |
| 7. Enter the appropriate letter in the space provided. | | | |
| a. Check appropriate box and enter appropriate letter(s) in the space(s) provided: | | 17. This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes. | |
| -- "New" means a new assistance award. | | | |
| -- "Continuation" means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. | | 18. To be signed by the authorized representative of the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.) | |
| -- "Revision" means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. | | | |
| 9. Name of Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application. | | | |
| 10. Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested. | | | |
| 11. Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If more than one program is involved, you should append an explanation on a separate sheet. If appropriate (e.g., construction or real property projects), attach a map showing project location. For preapplications, use a separate sheet to provide a summary description of this project. | | | |

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Acquisition	\$35,069,506	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2. Monitoring and Stewardship	\$41,368					
3.						
4.						
5. Totals	\$35,110,874	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) Acquisition	(2) Monit. & Steward.	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 4,816	\$ 2,089	\$	\$	\$ 6,905
b. Fringe Benefits	1,806	784			7,590
c. Travel	500	400			ann
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies	300	400			700
f. Contractual	50,000	30,000			80,000
g. Construction					
h. Other and acquisition	35,000,500	800			35,001,300
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	35,057,922	34,473			35,092,395
j. Indirect Charges	11,584	6,895			18,479
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 35,069,506	\$ 41,368	\$	\$	\$ 35,110,874
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES				
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8.	\$	\$	\$	\$
9.				
10.				
11.				
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 35,069,506	\$	\$	\$	\$
14. Non-Federal					
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 35,069,506	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT				
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. Acquisition	\$ 35,069,506	\$	\$	\$
17. Monitoring and Stewardship		34,098	7,270	
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$ 35,069,506	\$ 34,098	\$ 7,270	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION	
21. Direct Charges: \$35,092,395	22. Indirect Charges: \$18,479
23. Remarks: Indirect costs not calculated on capital costs.	

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.
SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds **sufficient to pay the** non-Federal share of project **cost**) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the **Intergovernmental** Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. **§§4728-4763**) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of **OPM's** Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with 'all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title **VI** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. **§§1681-1683, and 1685-1686**), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 5794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. **§§6101-6107**), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. ~~Will~~ comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. 5874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. ~~Will comply~~, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 21990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (9) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. ~~Will~~ comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. ~~Will~~ assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. ~~will~~ comply with PL 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. ~~Will~~ comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. ~~Will~~ comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE Director of Conservation	
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION The Nature Conservancy	DATE SUBMITTED 12 May 2000	

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

STD. 19 (REV. 3-95)

COMPANY NAME

The Nature Conservancy

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990(a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age (over 40), marital status, denial of family care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

Steve McCormick

DATE EXECUTED

May 10, 2000

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

San Francisco

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE



PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Regional Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

The Nature Conservancy



California Regional Office
201 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105

TEL 415 777-0487
FAX 415 777-0244 & 415 777-0772

International Headquarters
4245 North Fairfax Drive
Suite 100
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1606
TEL 703 841-5300

10 May 2000

Bay Conservation and Development Commission
30 Van Ness Ave., Room 2011
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to inform you of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the north and south forks of the Mokelumne River (please see maps 1 and 2 in the proposal).

The protection of Staten Island, permanently, for wildlife-friendly agriculture will contribute to the accomplishment of a number of goals of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, Strategic Plan and Multi Species Conservation Strategy. Furthermore, the project is designed to be consistent with flood control and water management activities in the east Delta as well. For example, subsequent proposals to use Staten Island as an intermittent floodway could be accommodated; levee set-backs could be constructed to widen the Mokelumne floodplain. None of these or related proposals are precluded by the strategies described herein.

This proposal does not stand alone. It is one part of a conservation strategy, the goal of which is to protect and enhance the ecosystem benefits of the Island while encouraging the long-term viability of wildlife-friendly farming in the Delta. This strategy has been developed cooperatively over the past three years by the Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, the owners and operators of Staten Island, and other partners of the Cosumnes River Project.

We have a strong commitment to see the property remain in agricultural use and that it continue to play an important role in the economy of the North Delta.

The proposal is attached; please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Eaton".

Mike Eaton
Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects



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201 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105

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TEL 703 841-5300

10 May 2000

Lois Sanyon
Clerk
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
222 E. Webber, Room 701
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Mr. Sanyon:

I am writing to inform the Board of Supervisors of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the **north** and south forks of the Mokelumne River @lease see maps 1 and 2 in the proposal).

The protection of Staten Island, permanently, for wildlife-friendly agriculture will contribute to the accomplishment of a number of goals of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, Strategic Plan and Multi Species Conservation Strategy. Furthermore, the project is designed to be consistent with flood control and water management activities in the east Delta as well: For example, subsequent proposals to use Staten Island as an intermittent floodway could be accommodated; levee set-backs could be constructed to widen the Mokelumne floodplain. None of these or related proposals are precluded by the strategies described herein.

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Mike Eaton
Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects



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10 May 2000

Ben Hulse
Planning Director
Community Development Department
San Joaquin County
1810E. Hazelton Ave.
Stockton, CA 95205

Dear Mr. Hulse:

I am writing to inform you of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the north and south forks of the Mokelumne River (please see maps 1 and 2 in the proposal).

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Mike Eaton
Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects



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10 May 2000

John Pulver
Water Resources Director
San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 1810
Stockton, CA 95201-1810

Dear Mr. Pulver:

I am writing to inform you of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the north and south forks of the Mokelumne River (please see maps 1 and 2 in the proposal).

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10 May 2000

David Baker
San Joaquin County Administrator
222 E. Weber, Room 707
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am writing to inform you of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the north and south forks of the Mokelumne River (please see maps 1 and 2 in the proposal).

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Mike Eaton
Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects



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10 May 2000

Tom Hutchings
Planning Director
Sacramento County Department of Planning
827 7th Street, Room 230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

I am writing to inform you of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the north and south forks of the Mokelumne River (please see maps 1 and 2 in the proposal).

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Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects



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10 May 2000

Clerk
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Room 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Board of Supervisors.:

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Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects



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10 May 2000

Margit Aramburu
Executive Director
Delta Protection Commission
P.O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Ms. Aramburu:

I am writing to inform you of The Nature Conservancy's intent to submit the attached proposal for funding under the 2001 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Nature Conservancy is requesting \$35,110,873 to fund the acquisition of Staten Island, an island in the Delta between the north and south forks of the Mokelumne River (please see maps 1 and 2 in proposal).

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Mike Eaton
Project Director, Cosumnes and Delta Projects